

Asia Notes

2015-2016

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RICHARD SALOMON BACK COVER



At UW Commencement, 2016
Photo courtesy of UW Office of Ceremonies

FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. As I write this here in Seattle, we have just concluded the summer quarter and are experiencing the annual pause of breath known as intersession. Work crews are busy power washing the walkways and buildings and those of us who come to campus every day are enjoying the glorious sunshine and a few weeks of quiet. By the time you read this, it will probably be raining!

Before us lies another academic year: new students, new colleagues, new courses, new visitors, and new ideas. I feel the same excitement every autumn that I felt when I first started teaching and when I was a student myself. At this moment, it feels as if anything is possible.

This limbo between academic years is also a good time to reflect on what happened during the past academic year and what we should and should not be doing next year. During the past year, my first as department chair, I learned a great deal about my colleagues, even though I have taught alongside them for years, and my sense of respect for their commitment to teaching, scholarship, and the university has deepened even further.

Nyan-Ping Bi, senior lecturer in Chinese, was awarded the Distinguished Teaching Award in the spring, for her achievements in teaching Chinese language courses at UW over the past twenty-six years. This award is the highest award for teaching at the university, and Nyan-Ping's winning of it has brought credit upon the department as well as herself. She is the first member of the department to win the award since it was first given in 1970.

Richard Salomon, professor of Sanskrit, was named the William P. and Ruth Gerberding University Professor, in recognition of his achievements in scholarship about ancient India, early Buddhism, and the culture of ancient Gandhara.

Last autumn we added a new member to the faculty: Dr. Ping Wang, who was appointed assistant professor of classical Chinese literature. Ping was trained at UW, receiving her Ph.D. in 2006, and taught at the University of Wisconsin and Princeton University before joining us.

continues page 2



George Washington. From *Meriken shinshi* 米利幹新誌 (A New Account of America, 1855), by Tsurumine Shigenobu.

Collection of Brigham Young University.
Photograph by Paul Atkins.

FROM THE CHAIR CONTINUED

This autumn, we welcome Dr. Chan Lü as assistant professor of applied Chinese linguistics. Dr. Lü will also be serving as coordinator of our growing Chinese language program. She received a Ph.D. from Carnegie Mellon University and comes to us having taught for several years at Loyola Marymount University.

These scholars represent the future of our department and I am very pleased and proud to serve alongside them.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank our loyal alumni and donors, whose contributions make possible so many things that are essential to our operations, from student and faculty travel to book purchases for the library to special events and visiting lectures. We are grateful not only for your financial support but for the shared belief in our teaching and research mission that it represents.

Although the world economic crisis ended a few years ago and the Seattle economy is booming, these developments have not translated into windfalls for the university, the College of Arts and Sciences, or the department. We are still operating in an austere financial environment and need private support to maintain our reputation for excellence in the study and teaching of Asian languages, literatures, and cultures.

On behalf of the members of the department, I thank you for your help and ask for your continued support and guidance.

With warm regards,
Paul S. Atkins
 Professor of Japanese
 Department Chair



Prof. Zev Handel speaks at the International Particle Accelerator Conference in Busan, South Korea. Photograph courtesy of IPAC

ZEV HANDEL ADDRESSES ACCELERATOR PHYSICISTS IN SOUTH KOREA

Professor Zev Handel addressed hundreds of particle accelerator physicists who were attending the International Particle Accelerator Conference (IPAC) in Busan, South Korea in May, 2016.

What was an expert in East Asian linguistics and writing systems doing at a conference for particle physicists? Prof. Handel was invited to deliver the "entertainment" talk, which by tradition introduces a feature of the culture of the host country. In a 40-minute address titled "Learn to Read Korean: An Introduction to Hangul," Prof. Handel gave a brief overview of the history of writing on the Korean peninsula and explained the underlying principles of the Korean alphabet, invented by King Sejong of the Joseon Dynasty in 1443. The presentation concluded with a basic lesson in how to read the Korean alphabet.



NYAN-PING BI WINS DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

Nyan-Ping Bi, senior lecturer in Chinese, was awarded the Distinguished Teaching Award at the University of Washington's 46th annual Awards of Excellence ceremony in June, 2016. This award, which is given each year to just seven faculty members (five from the Seattle campus, and one each from UW Bothell and Tacoma), recognizes instructors who demonstrate "mastery of

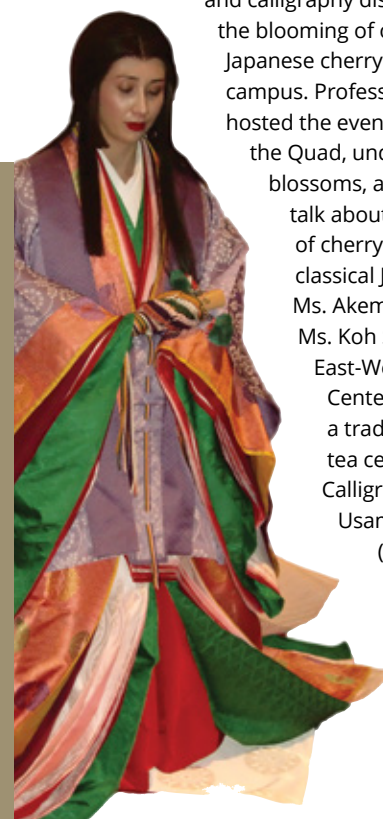
subject matter, enthusiasm and innovation in the teaching and learning process, ability to engage students both within and outside the classroom, ability to inspire independent and original thinking in students and to stimulate students to do creative work, and innovations in course and curriculum design." Award winners are inducted into the UW's Teaching Academy, which promotes excellence in teaching and learning at the UW. Bi *laoshi* is the first member of the department to win this award since it was created in 1970.

TRADITIONAL JAPANESE CULTURE COMES ALIVE AT UW

This past year was especially rich in events sponsored by the department that made traditional Japanese culture come to life for students, faculty, staff, and members of the community.

"The World of Classical Japanese Kimono" brought several professional kimono dressers from Japan in October to demonstrate and talk about the "twelve-layer kimono" (*jūni hitoe*), an elaborate garment worn by female courtiers in Japan's Heian era (791-1185). It figures prominently in such classic works as *The Tale of Genji*, but seeing one up close is a rare opportunity. The demonstrators, led by Ms. Ayako Nakayama of Tokyo, explained the various components and accessories of the *jūni hitoe*, demonstrated the process of robing with the help of a student volunteer (S. Yui, '16), and answered questions from the audience. Professor Paul Atkins hosted the event and provided consecutive Japanese-English interpretation. The department deeply appreciates the efforts of Ms. Keiko Oda, who served as co-organizer, and Ms. Aiko Suganuma, whose strong support made this memorable event possible.

In early March, the department sponsored a cherry blossom viewing, tea ceremony, and calligraphy display to celebrate the blooming of our famous Japanese cherry blossoms on campus. Professor Paul Atkins hosted the event in the middle of the Quad, under a canopy of blossoms, and gave a brief talk about the depiction of cherry blossoms in classical Japanese poetry. Ms. Akemi Sagawa and Ms. Koh Shimizu of the East-West Chanoyu Center demonstrated a traditional Japanese tea ceremony. Calligrapher Shizu Usami wrote *sakura* (cherry blossoms)



S. Yui, '16, dressed in Heian-period style kimono and wig



Participants Shizu Usami, Koh Shimizu, and Akemi Sagawa (left to right). Photograph by Kayako Sareen

on strips of Japanese paper, using thirty-nine different forms of orthography, and her works were tied to the blossoming branches. Over seventy persons attended, thanks in large part to publicity provided by the co-sponsor, local Japanese website *junglecity.com*. The department thanks all those who made this event possible, including Ms. Takumi Ohno, president of *Junglecity Network*.

A lecture titled "Ninja and Ninjutsu (Ninja Techniques)" was given by Professor Yūji Yamada of Mie University in May. An expert on medieval and early modern Japanese history, Professor Yamada drew a distinction between ninja as they are portrayed in popular culture and *shinobi*, the real-life spies upon which the ninja were based. In contrast with the image of the samurai, who readily offered their lives in the service of their masters, the duty of the *shinobi* was to survive, and bring back valuable information. Consecutive English interpretation of Professor Yamada's lecture was provided by Ms. Kaoru Hayashi of Princeton University, and Professor Paul Atkins served as host and organizer. The department is grateful to the UW Japan Studies and the Gardner Center for Asian Art and Ideas at the Seattle Art Museum (SAAM) for funding Professor Yamada's visit. He also gave a lecture and workshop for K-12 teachers at SAAM, wearing a decidedly conspicuous custom-made ninja outfit.

SECOND NORTHWEST CONFERENCE ON JAPANESE PEDAGOGY HELD AT UW

The Japanese program hosted the 2nd Northwest Conference on Japanese Pedagogy from May 21-22, 2016. It attracted approximately 45 college-level and secondary school teachers from the region, and other parts of the country. The conference's theme was "How Can We Motivate Students?: The Present and Future of Japanese Language Education in North America." The conference opened with the first keynote speech by Professor Junko Mori from the University of Wisconsin-Madison titled "Liberal Arts Education in the Era of Globalization: Challenges and Opportunities for Japanese Language Programs" and ended with a second keynote address by Michio Tsutsui, Professor Emeritus of UW's Technical Japanese Program, titled "これまでの日本語教育と今後の方策・方向: "Japanese Education, the Past and the Future." There were also eight presentations whose topics ranged from the use of pop culture and TV commercials to content-based instruction using Japanese literature. The conference enabled participants to reexamine trends in Japanese language education in North America and to reflect on what they can do to motivate and encourage students to study the Japanese language.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

FACULTY

Paul Atkins began a five-year term as chair of the department in July, 2015, and was promoted to full professor effective September, 2016. He delivered lectures on “The Reception of Fujiwara no Teika in Nō Drama” in Paris, “The Manuscripts of Fujiwara no Teika” in Hamburg, and “Zekkai Chūshin and Ming-Japanese Relations” in Kyoto.

Davinder Bhowmik published a new book with the University of Hawai'i Press, *Islands of Protest: Japanese Literature from Okinawa*. The book, which she co-edited with Steve Rabson, professor emeritus of East Asian Studies at Brown University, is an anthology of poetry, fiction, and drama.

Nyan-Ping Bi's first-year Chinese course was highlighted in the University of Washington's *Active Learning Classroom Resources Report*, a collaboration between Odegaard Library and UW Information Technology focusing on the effects that specially equipped and furnished classrooms have had on learning. She was designated a UW faculty facilitator and visited Waseda University on behalf of the university in Summer, 2016. *Teaching Chinese as a Second Language: Curriculum Design & Instruction*, a book she co-edited, was published in Fall, 2015.

Heekyoung Cho published a new book, titled *Translation's Forgotten History: Russian Literature, Japanese Mediation, and the Formation of Modern Korean Literature*, with the Harvard University Asia Center. It examines literary and cultural relations among Russia, Japan, and colonial Korea, revealing a shared sensibility and literary experience in East Asia (which referred to Russia as a significant other in the formation of its own modern literature). The book also highlights translation as a radical and ineradicable part—not merely a catalyst or complement—of the formation of modern national literature.

Chris Hamm assisted Dr. Shen Zhijia, Director of the East Asia Library, in obtaining an Allen Opportunity Grant

to support the scanning of the library's holdings of the Chinese literary journal *Banyue* 半月. A nearly complete run of this periodical, published from 1921 to 1925, is among the East Asia Library's extensive holdings in Republican-era Chinese periodicals. Digital images of the journal's contents will be made available through the Library website, through the open-access HathiTrust, and through the Early Chinese Periodicals Online project headed by the University of Heidelberg and the Academia Sinica of Taiwan.

Izumi Matsuda is organizing an upcoming workshop to help Japanese language instructors to become familiar with the theory of *tadoku* (extensive reading), learn how to establish a collection of reading materials, and brainstorm about how to implement *tadoku* in their curricula.

Amy Ohta has organized a colloquium on “Concept-Based Instruction as an Approach to Instructed Second Language Acquisition,” which will include graduate student Harumi Maeda, for the Second Language Research Forum, to be held at Columbia University in Fall 2016.

Heidi Pauwels published a new book, titled *Cultural Exchange in Eighteenth-Century India: Poetry and Paintings from Kishangarh*, which was featured at a special exhibition at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. She participated in the 4th Early Hindi and Braj Bhasha Workshop-Retreat, the goal of which is to expand professional horizons and refine knowledge of the intricacies and varieties of Old Hindi, and its direct predecessor, Apabhramsa.

Richard Salomon was selected as the holder of the William P. and Ruth Gerberding University Professorship, effective July, 2015. He will be on leave this Autumn quarter while lecturing at the University of Sydney under the auspices of the University Buddhist Education Fund's Buddhist Studies Lecture Series.

Prof. Salomon will deliver a series of eight lectures entitled “Recovering the History of Indian Buddhism from Inscriptions.”

Bich-Ngoc Turner taught a new summer course, “Postwar Vietnam in Literature, Media and Film.” This summer was the first time this course was offered at the UW.

Liping Yu led a group of twenty UW students on a tour of Beijing and Shanghai as part of the UW Husky Presidential Ambassadorship program in Summer, 2015. The students met with incoming first-year students as they prepared for the transition to life in Seattle.

Anne Yue-Hashimoto received a grant from the University of Washington East Asia Center to create an elementary textbook for a new course on ancient Chinese civilization through the window of oracle-bone inscriptions.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Nathaniel Bond was selected by the Simpson Center for the Humanities as a Mellon Fellow for Reaching New Publics in the Humanities. He will be working with a faculty member at Seattle Central College to receive professional development and mentoring, and build connections between UW and two-year colleges.

Chris Lowy received a Japan Foundation Fellowship for the 2016-17 academic year, and will be conducting research in Japan.

Michael Skinner spent the 2015-16 academic year in India on a Fulbright fellowship, conducting field research for his dissertation on the Kushan Empire.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

Fusae Ekida (Ph.D., '09) was appointed assistant professor of Japanese at Murray State University in Kentucky, where she teaches undergraduate-level Japanese and is conducting research on poetry matches and the construction process of poetic ideals in medieval Japan.

Jon Holt (Ph.D., '10) was promoted to associate professor of Japanese at Portland State University.

Sachi Schmidt-Hori (Ph.D., '12) was appointed assistant professor of Japanese at Dartmouth College and is teaching courses in classical Japanese literature, gender, Asian sociolinguistics, and upper-level Japanese language. She is currently working on a book manuscript on medieval acolyte tales (*chigo monogatari* 稚児物語).

S. Yui ('16) will be starting an MA program in Japanese literature at Oxford University in Fall, 2016.

Cindi Textor (Ph.D., '16) will serve as a Postdoctoral Associate in the Council on East Asian Studies at Yale University for the 2016-2017 academic year. She will be revising her dissertation into a book, and teaching a course she developed at UW called “Popular Culture in Motion: Japanese Empire to Korean Wave.”

Jie Wu (Ph.D., '08) was promoted to associate professor of Chinese Studies at Murray State University, where she recently established a new Chinese studies minor.

NINETEENTH ANNUAL MARKUS LECTURE GIVEN BY PROF. ROBERT GOLDMAN

Professor Robert Goldman, the William and Catherine Magistretti Distinguished Professor of Sanskrit at the University of California, Berkeley, gave the nineteenth annual Andrew L. Markus Memorial Lecture on May 10, 2016. His presentation was titled “A Clouded Mirror: The *Uttara-kānda* of the *Vālmīka-Rāmāyana* as an Occluded Guide to Statecraft.” The lecture, which was eloquently delivered by Prof. Goldman and enthusiastically received by the audience, concerned the controversial reception and interpretations of the seventh and final book of Valmīki's epic Sanskrit poem, both in antiquity and in modern times. It included excerpts from the translation of the *Uttara-kānda* by Prof. Goldman and his collaborator, Sally Sutherland Goldman,

which is about to be published by Princeton University Press. This volume is the admirable culmination of Prof. Goldman's life-long engagement with the *Rāmāyana*, a work of literature that is as influential and revered in India and Southeast Asia as are the Bible or the Quran in the Judeo-Christian and Islamic worlds.

The Markus lecture is held every year in honor of the late Andrew L. Markus, associate professor of Japanese, who taught Japanese literature in the department from 1986 to 1995. The lecture is made possible by an endowed fund created in his memory by his family and friends.

Professor Robert Goldman (front and center) with Profs. Atkins and Salomon (front left and right) and Drs. Timothy Lenz and Jan Nattier (back left and right)



SAVE THE DATE

TWENTIETH ANNUAL ANDREW L. MARKUS MEMORIAL LECTURE

Tuesday, May 9, 2017, 6:30 p.m.

Junko Mori, Ph.D.

Professor of Japanese, University of Wisconsin-Madison



From left to right: Aaron Steel, Xinzhan Chen, Sayo Sakamoto, Michael Butcher, and Harumi Maeda.

NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS

Michael Butcher received his BA in History and Comparative Religion from California State University-Chico and his MA in Religious Studies from Indiana University-Bloomington, and has come to UW to study Sanskrit and the various Prakrits, notably Gandhari. Michael's interests are in Indian inscriptions and writing systems and ancient Buddhist manuscripts from India and Central Asia. Outside of school, Michael is a fervent reader of Tolkien and enjoys collecting ancient Hellenistic and Indian coins.

Xinzhan Chen received her master's degree in Modern Chinese Cultural Studies at the University of Edinburgh, UK, and is working with Professor Chris Hamm in her pursuit of a PhD in Chinese literature. Xinzhan's research interests are modern and contemporary Chinese literature and culture.

Harumi Maeda is from Kobe, Japan, and received her BA in International Studies from Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan

in 2014. Harumi is working with Professor Amy Ohta and is interested in Japanese linguistics, foreign language pedagogy, and second language acquisition. She has served as a Japanese language teaching assistant for the department since Spring, 2015. Besides her studies, Harumi reports that she enjoys teaching foreign languages, watching baseball, movies, and TV dramas. Ichiro (although he is not with Seattle Mariners anymore) and Brad Pitt are her heroes, and she has started to enjoy hiking in the Pacific Northwest.

Sayo Sakamoto completed her MA in Cultural Studies at Tokyo Metropolitan University. Her research interest lies in postwar Japanese literature and popular culture. Specifically, she focuses on the revival of classic themes as a response to dramatic social and cultural changes, the representation of women in the context of masculinity, and descriptions of hardship and violence not only in Japanese literature, but also in films, theaters, and music in the

postwar period. Outside of her research, she enjoys cooking, watching movies, and hopping used bookstores as well as thrift stores.

Aaron Steel graduated from Oglethorpe University with a BA in French and is delighted to be spending this year at UW studying Japanese linguistics in the graduate program with Professor Amy Ohta. Although born in Tacoma, Washington, he has lived the majority of his life on the east coast, particularly in Nashville, Tennessee, and is enjoying his return to the Pacific Northwest. Aaron's major interests are second language acquisition and pedagogy, particularly related to Japanese, and also in languages in general. In addition to his studies, Aaron enjoys developing his photography and cooking in his free time.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW GRADUATES

This year's Graduation and Awards Convocation was held on a cloudy June day in Kane Hall. The department awarded 42 Bachelor's degrees in Japanese, 12 in Korean, 10 in Chinese, and 3 in South Asian Languages. Doctoral degrees were conferred upon Cindi Textor and Li Yang, Jennifer Liu earned a Master of Arts degree, and Doctoral Candidate Certificates were presented to Wook-jin Jeong, Christopher Lowy and Kevin Tahmoresi.

Mr. Jody Chafee, Director and Expert Counsel at the Starbucks Corporation, delivered a spirited address to mark the occasion. Mr. Chafee spoke eloquently on a sometimes overlooked benefit of a degree in Asian languages and literature: the lifelong skill of being able to interact with unfamiliar cultures and operate in foreign environments. Mr. Chafee argued that this skill would prove equally useful in the corporate boardroom and in private

life, and would help students navigate environments ranging from the American South to countries halfway around the world. Learning to interact with other cultures, Mr. Chafee suggested, was a vital skill that would serve our graduates well for the rest of their lives.

Several awards were conferred at the ceremony. The Henry S. Tatsumi Award was presented to Fairuz Aisyah Binti Ahmed Zamri, Christopher Kessler, and Wilhelmina McMichael. Cindi Textor received the Turrell V. Wylie Memorial Scholarship Award. The Scott Swaner Memorial Book Award was presented to Hannah Hertzog, Vincent Lawson, and Ashley Phillips. The Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award was presented to Japanese teaching assistant Christopher Lowy.

A lively reception was held immediately following the ceremony.



Mr. Jody Chafee, Director and Expert Counsel at the Starbucks Coffee Company

RECOGNITION OF OUR DONORS

The faculty, students, and staff of the department are grateful to the following individuals and organizations for their belief in and support of our mission to teach and study Asian languages, literatures, and cultures.

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 Thank You!

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Richard G. Salomon,
William P. and Ruth
Gerberding University
Professor

RICHARD SALOMON RECEIVES HUMANITIES ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Richard Salomon, William P. and Ruth Gerberding University Professor, was selected by the Puget Sound Association of Phi Beta Kappa to receive its Humanities Achievement Award.

The prize is given to “individuals or organizations whose contributions to the humanities or arts are considered to be outstanding.”

The board of trustees of the association voted to award Professor Salomon the award in recognition of his study of the Gandharan manuscripts, which illuminate the oldest period of Buddhist culture for which documents exist, and the dissemination of its results. It was presented to him in May, 2016.

The Phi Beta Kappa Society, founded in 1776, is America’s oldest academic honor society. It recognizes and promotes excellence in the study of the liberal arts and sciences.

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